

Remarks:

In view of the fact that allowable subject matter has been indicated to be present in the case, an earnest effort has been made to bring this application to issue without delay.

1. Applicant has claimed the priority of his German application serial number 102 42 441.1 of 11 September 2002 and has filed a certified copy of that German application to perfect the priority under 35 USC 119. However, there is no filed acknowledgment in paragraph 12 of PTOL 326 and such acknowledgment is now requested.

2. Claims 1-4 have been rejected as anticipated by Weigert patent 5,797,057. These claims have been canceled.

3. Claims 5-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise were considered by the Examiner to be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of a base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5, from which all of claims 6-16 were directly or indirectly dependent, has been so amended and, in addition, now includes subject matter now appearing in claims 6, 7 and 10. Thus it is narrower in scope than the claims which the Examiner originally allowed. Claim 5 is therefore deemed to be allowable

together with claims 8, 9 and 11-16 which, in part, have been amended only by change of dependency. Claims 6, 7 and 10 have been canceled as redundant.

4. A new claim 17 has been added to replace claims 1-4. The new claim 17 recites a building-illumination lamp assembly (10) which can be mounted on a building roof or a building wall and which has a lamp housing (12) which surrounds an interior space (13) in which at least one lamp (15) is provided and which has at least one light outlet opening (16) training the light upon an area to be illuminated such as a floor circuit.

To generate a substantially homogeneous but sharply defined light cone, a lens plate (18) is provided in the region of the light outlet opening (16) with a multiplicity of microlenses (27).

On the side (28) of the plate turned away from the lamp, the microlenses (27) are formed by outwardly directed convexities (30) with a center to center spacing of less than 5 mm but more than 1 mm, while the opposite surface is smooth or provided with rounded concavities contributing to the formation of the lenses.

The newly presented claim 17 as can be seen from the foregoing, is narrower than original claim 5 which the Examiner has recognized was neither anticipated nor obvious from the Weigert reference.

Applicant has submitted an Information Disclosure Statement here under 37 CFR 1.97(c) in which prior art has been cited based upon the European Search Report in the corresponding European application. That prior art appears to be more significant than the Weigert reference.

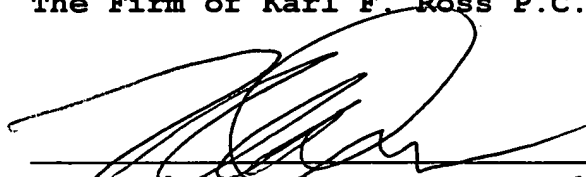
Attention is first directed to Beeson et al, patent 5,521,725, which discloses a microlens arrangement on a light waveguide. The light waveguide (16) in FIG. 1 of this reference terminates in a layer with microprisms (28) in a low refraction index layer (27). Microlenses are shown at 80 in FIG. 2, 2a and 5 of FIGS. 5-7. A spacer 82 is provided.

This reference, however, is not disclosed as a lamp which can be affixed to a structure and which has a microlens plate in a housing between the outlet and a light source in the claimed manner. Thus no rejection on Beeson et al of the claims now in the case should stand. This is even more true because the reference does not disclose an arrangement in which ΔS is smaller than 5 mm but greater than 1 mm as is recited in both claims 5 and 17.

US patent 3,735,124 (Stahlhut) from 1971 discloses a lens element with a multiplicity of microlenses. The reference does not suggest the microlens configuration of FIG. 5 (see back of the lens plate in the reference) nor does it appear to generate a sharply defined but homogeneous light cone. The cones now presented, therefore, are deemed to be allowable over this reference as well.

In the EP 0 846 914 reference, the lens elements appear to be in the form of ribs which do not fall within the claims either. The Sohn patent 6,833,094 reference has a microlens array, as does EP 0 999 407, likewise failing to satisfy either the requirements for sharp edged uniform illumination in a homogeneous manner. Claim 17, therefore, is believed to be allowable together with claim 5 and the claims which depend therefrom and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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